

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



TEXT OF THE MESSAGE BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULLA YAMEEN ABDUL GAYOOM  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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QUOTE

Malé, 08 December 2017

On the occasion of the Thirty Third Anniversary of the founding of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), I am pleased to extend warm greetings and sincere good wishes to the people of SAARC Member States, the Secretary-General and the staff of the SAARC Secretariat, Regional Centers and Apex Bodies.

SAARC region is a vast, densely populated area, characterized by social and cultural diversity. Despite political drawbacks over the past three decades, SAARC has succeeded in creating opportunities where we were able to amicably agree and move forward. In this vein, people-to-people contact is crucial to achieving the full potential of the SAARC region.

Undoubtedly, education is a powerful tool for harnessing the true potential of the SAARC region. For a region with a low literacy rate, increased access and quality of education will contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development. In line with numerous international instruments which have been adopted, including the Agenda 2030 that recognizes the importance of inclusive and quality education, I firmly believe that SAARC should streamline its education systems to achieve poverty eradication goals enshrined in the SAARC Charter.

SAARC is not exempt from global threats, such as climate change, terrorism and natural disasters. To address these global threats and fight them, we, as a region, need to unite and help each other.

As we commemorate this important day, I wish to convey assurances of the full support and commitment of the Republic of Maldives to the members of SAARC, to further bolster the existing bonds between the Member States. The Maldives will continue to strive to work in concert for the betterment of the socio-economic



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standing, peace, security and stability of the region.

Let us not let our differences in belief and outlook hinder our efforts to achieving our common goals as a region. In the spirit and good will that culminated in the founding of the SAARC organization, we need to sustain progressive dialogue, respect and reciprocate.

I wish SAARC and the region every success.

Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom  
President of the Republic of Maldives

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



**Message By**  
**His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Asim,**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives,**  
**on the Occasion of the SAARC Charter Day**  
**8 December 2017**

On the occasion of the Thirty Third Anniversary of the founding of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), I am pleased to extend warm greetings and sincere good wishes to the Secretary-General, the hardworking staff of the Secretariat and to the people of SAARC.

SAARC has succeeded in creating opportunities where we were able to amicably agree and move forward to further promote the common interests of all our member countries.

Education is a powerful medium used to promote sustainable development and eradication of poverty through numerous instruments such as Agenda 2030 which can unleash the potential of the SAARC Region.

Regional Corporation will generate virtuous impulses in support of corporation and integration which helps to clear the barriers for regional economic integration. It is also necessary to utilize SAFTA as a vector of economic integration and growth in the region.

SAARC Regional conventions and its Additional Protocols needed to be implemented to safeguard the region from transnational crimes and encourage our member states to welcome the Colombo Declaration for accelerated action on regional health problems.

SAARC faces many challenges. But other through better coordination and sharing of technical expertise, we can strengthen regional cooperation on all agreed areas.

I wish SAARC and the region every success.

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